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sufficiently deeply into the problem to explain why this is so; although he does distinguish two kinds of liffs, he does not, in my estimation, make sufficiently clear why such a distinction exists. Let us look at the matter in a slightly different way.

There are, indeed, two kinds of liffs, which Rifians themselves [539] readily distinguish, and a Rifian proverb to this effect is as follows: "Kahalli nimsingha jiranagh ghar barra untimsa'dhi" ("Even if we fight among each other, we must be united against outsiders"). Thus, within 616 clans or subclans, there are "internal quarrels" (aminghi n dhikhr, 614 pl. iminghan n dhikhr), in which alliances often or sometimes even con- 619 tinuously shifted and changed over time; and within tribes, there were "external quarrels" (iminghan n barra), involving one clan or subclan against the next--and here alignments were almost invariably stable and predictable. Whenever the latter had to be activated, they were the same as they had been previously; and the feuding parties in an intra-clan war patched up their differences in order to turn their attention to attacking another clan. For this reason, permanence and impermanence of liffs tends to depend upon what levels of segmentation are under consideration, the latter applying more to lower levels and the former more to higher ones.

616 Besides the question of duration, there is another mechanism at work in the structure of liff alliances, and this has been defined by E. Gellner as "transitiveness" (see Hart, op. cit., 1958, p. 204, note 44). What is meant here is that if A and B are in liff, and B and C are, then A and C are also. This is indeed true for the Rif, but within well-circumscribed limits (the neighboring clans of immediately neighboring tribes) to be discussed below--for transitiveness does not continue ad infinitum.

The crux of the matter, among Rifians, is neatly revealed in their 616 terminology given above, in that "external" or "outside" or "big" 614 liffs operate on an intra-tribal level, while "internal" or "inside" or 619 "smaller" liffs work within clans or subclans. The hall-mark of the Rifian liff system as that every single tribe in the area (and we know of no exceptions whatsoever) was permanently split down the middle, and its various clans and/or subclans, as a result, were aligned either in Faction A or Faction B; and thus the balance of power tended often but not always to be roughly symmetrical. Not only this, but it was generally expected that immediately bordering clans of neighboring tribes [124] would help one faction and hinder the other. Two informants, from the Igzinnayen, in fact, visualized the whole Rif, from their own tribe (in altitude, the highest in the Rifian-speaking universe) down to the Mediterranean, as a veritable network of such alliances! Small wonder, therefore, that Montagne, de la Chapelle, Justinard, Blanco and others who have published on the subject have found it so fascinating. Because of the internal split into two more or less equal parts in each individual tribe, and because of participation (if not in manpower, at least with money or rifles), of adjoining segments of neighboring tribes, the Rifian alliance system seems more complicated to me than the out-and-out chess- or checker-board-type liffs of the Western Atlas (if Montagne et al. are correct, as J. Berque, op. cit., 1955, pp. 424-39, has cast doubts on the Montagnian hypothesis); and we would liken it more to the links of a chrin--as Blanco does, though perhaps he does so unwittingly through not having had all the facts at his disposal.

671 of a compressed crowd which, hooded and silent in a semi-circle, hears its own echo in the voice of one of its constituents calling out to the four winds in a harsh thamazighth accent and with graphic gestures, while the black muzzles of rifles above their heads make the moment more solemn and the silence more impressive and represent the law, a strong, hard and impassioned law, the primitive law of the pastoral (sic) peoples. And if we ourselves might have had the good fortune to be eye-witnesses, perhaps we would have felt the chill of the anathema against our brethren for making them responsible for our acts.

[539] Qanun of the Sub-Clan of the Aith 'Adhiya: ".....all of the above-mentioned villages of the Bni 'Adhiya shall unite against him and burn his estate and that of his brothers; they shall drag them from their houses and exact from them one thousand duros as fine".

671 829 609 Do not ask the Rifians about their qanuns, as they do not like to reveal them; they know them to be modest, they fear that they will not be understood and that they will be considered as a joke; they guard them and conceal them as carefully as the dearest members of their families, as their own tongue, with an understandable atavism; and so strong is the feeling of mistrust that it would be offensive and erroneous to attribute to them an inferiority complex; and if, in circumstantial preservation, you wanted to learn their language, they would invariably try to dissuade you with bitter phrases which they once might have heard, if not from your lips from those of your brother officers; and one does not know whether to think the sad reproach, the instinctive defense of the community or an absurd conviction is 829 the reason[3]. They speak disparagingly of their own language as of

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585 574 571 431 the groom's wedding and to the groom himself. This is the high point of the celebration and a public demonstration of the web of social debts that have been accumulated over the past or projected into the future.

The gift giving takes place during a ceremony which is supposed to emulate a royal court paying tribute to the king. The groom, addressed as Moulay, or Sultan, enters into a circle of guests who are sitting outside the house on mats or under arbours. He is accompanied by the same set of men who had gone around with him on the previous week collecting grama. This is a group of six or seven close male friends and relatives called his iwziren, from the Arabic wazir (viziers), or ministers. It is rather odd that the terminological forms of central government (sultan and viziers) should exist in the traditional wedding ceremony in an area where the central government exercised little or no authority. That it existed prior to the introduction of central authority is, however, quite certain since both Coon (1931:134-135) and Renisio (1932:146-150) report it.

[154] The groom, wearing a new jeballa, the hood of which covers his face to ward off evil eyes, enters the circle accompanied by his iwziren. As this procession enters into the circle of male guests they sing in Arabic.

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sabhain er-razik
sabhain el-khalaik
sabhain er-ruwak
El ardh el-khalaik

Praise be to the Provider
Praise be to the Creator
Praise be to the Permanent
The Creation has begun.

751 vary greatly, from less than a dirham to several hundred dirhams.
435 Although it is impossible to estimate how much money goes for investments of this sort, the qualitative importance of investments to prevent misfortune from the evil eye is great.

One other rite ought to be mentioned of imitative magic
796 directly related to production. Since crops are dry farmed,
241 the success of any one year depends on the amount of rain
789 received in that year. Unfortunately, the Rif is not blessed
821 with a stable rainfall. When there is drought or even the fear of impending drought, each community in the Central Rif has a Bride-of-the-Rain ceremony (thasrith anzar). For such a ceremony a ladle normally used to put bread into the household ovens is dressed in the costume of a bride. The young female virgins
[533] carry this 'bride' from house to house within their community,
[539] singing the refrain,

a-reeth-nia-la
arabe ya-sidi
atewah- n-shala

Give us Oh God
Give us water quickly
Make water quickly.

They stop at each household to receive coins and prepared food.
[782] At the same time, all the men go to the communal mosque or a nearby saint's tomb where they sacrifice a bull purchased with contributions for everyone in the community. After the ceremony the meat is distributed among the participants. Although this example is related to both consumption and production, it would